

Ortiz	Salazar	Taylor
Pallone	Sali	Terry
Pascarell	Sánchez, Linda	Thompson (CA)
Pastor	T.	Thompson (MS)
Payne	Sanchez, Loretta	Tiahrt
Pearce	Sarbanes	Tiberi
Pence	Saxton	Tierney
Perlmutter	Schakowsky	Towns
Peterson (MN)	Schiff	Turner
Peterson (PA)	Schmidt	Udall (CO)
Petri	Schwartz	Udall (NM)
Pickering	Scott (GA)	Upton
Pitts	Scott (VA)	Van Hollen
Platts	Sensenbrenner	Velázquez
Poe	Serrano	Visclosky
Pomeroy	Sessions	Walberg
Price (GA)	Sestak	Walden (OR)
Price (NC)	Shadegg	Walsh (NY)
Pryce (OH)	Shays	Walz (MN)
Putnam	Shea-Porter	Wamp
Radanovich	Sherman	Wasserman
Rahall	Shimkus	Schultz
Ramstad	Shuler	Waters
Regula	Shuster	Watson
Rehberg	Simpson	Watt
Reichert	Sires	Waxman
Renzi	Skelton	Weiner
Reyes	Slaughter	Welch (VT)
Reynolds	Smith (NE)	Weldon (FL)
Rodriguez	Smith (NJ)	Weller
Rogers (AL)	Smith (TX)	Westmoreland
Rogers (KY)	Smith (WA)	Wexler
Rogers (MI)	Snyder	Whitfield
Rohrabacher	Solis	Wicker
Ros-Lehtinen	Souder	Wilson (NM)
Roskam	Space	Wilson (OH)
Ross	Spratt	Wilson (SC)
Rothman	Stark	Wolf
Roybal-Allard	Stearns	Woolsey
Royce	Stupak	Wu
Ruppersberger	Sullivan	Wynn
Rush	Sutton	Yarmuth
Ryan (OH)	Tanner	Young (FL)
Ryan (WI)	Tauscher	

NAYS—1

Paul

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Thornberry

NOT VOTING—16

Berkley	Dicks	Porter
Brady (TX)	Hastert	Rangel
Butterfield	Hinojosa	Tancredo
Coble	Kucinich	Young (AK)
Cubin	McCrery	
Davis, Jo Ann	Murtha	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes are remaining in this vote.

□ 2044

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 616, 617, 618 and 619, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all 4 rollcalls.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRALEY of Iowa). Pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 USC 6431 note), amended by section 681(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 USC 2651 note), and

the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following members on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom:

Ms. Felice Gaer, Paramus, New Jersey, for a 2-year term ending May 14, 2009, to succeed herself and upon the recommendation of the minority leader:

Ms. Nina Shea, Washington, D.C., for a 2-year term ending May 14, 2009, to succeed herself

HONORING KATJA MARTIN

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Miss Katja Martin, a sixth grade student from my district, who is an inspired writer and gifted reader and writer.

This year, the Library of Congress has selected Miss Katja Martin of Apparetta, Georgia as one of only six national winners in their annual "Letters About Literature" program. With more than 56,000 adolescent and young adult readers in fourth through 12th grades participating, this program encourages students to read and be inspired and to write a letter that might have been sent to an author who has changed the student's view of the world and of themselves.

For her entry, Miss Martin wrote about the Robert Frost poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." Because of her talented efforts, she and the other five national winners will be honored at the National Book Festival on September 29 here in Washington, DC, where they will have the opportunity to read their letters to the gathered audience.

I am pleased to have the House recognize this accomplishment. It's a great honor for me to be able to represent and recognize Katja Martin, clearly a dedicated and intelligent young lady.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today we passed the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, and I just want to take a minute to thank Congressman GEORGE MILLER for his tremendous leadership in achieving bipartisan support for a bill that will have a positive and lasting impact on the future of education in our Nation.

We raised the maximum Pell Grant, reaching \$5,200 by 2011. In my home State of California, this will benefit over 645,000 students.

Another important part of this bill is the increase to the Upward Bound program, effective for the current fiscal year, allowing several program sites

that had to shut their doors a few weeks ago to reopen, including one in my district.

This bill also makes landmark investments in our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, our Hispanic-serving institutions, and will raise the number of students obtaining degrees in science, technology and math, and increase the capacity of these institutions to teach in these fields.

Today's vote was a vote for the future of our children and for the future of our Nation.

PRO-GROWTH POLICIES ARE WORKING

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, tax receipts are up, and the deficit is down. Pro-growth policies are working. The President's tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 have had an enormous impact on our economy and on government revenue.

The Office of Management and Budget announced today that the Federal deficit is actually \$205 billion, the lowest since 2002, the lowest since the tax cuts went into effect. What this shows is that with pro-growth policies, the economy grows. And when the economy grows, tax receipts to the government go up as well. When that happens, we can balance this budget if we have the reasonable approach of restraining spending and keeping in place the tax cuts that were put in place in 2001 and 2003.

I urge my colleagues to continue this pro-growth policy of keeping taxes low and helping the American economy grow and prosper.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID RAY RITCHESON

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this evening I rise to introduce H. Res. 535 in tribute to David Ray Ritcheson, a survivor of one of the most horrific hate crimes in the history of Texas, and recognizing his efforts in promoting Federal legislation to combat hate crimes.

David Ray Ritcheson, a Mexican American, was a friendly and cheerful student at Klein Collins High School in the Houston suburb of Spring, Texas and a popular and talented football athlete who was loved and admired by his family and friends. However, on April 23, 2006, at the age of 16, David Ray Ritcheson was severely assaulted while attending a party in Spring, Texas by skinheads who assaulted and violated him because of his race.

It was through his suffering of this enormous tragedy, having gone through more than 30 surgeries to restore his appearance and regain the

normal use of his body, that this young man stayed steadfast and came to the Judiciary Committee in 2007 and gave the most passionate plea for the passage of the Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, is a resolution in tribute to Mr. David Ray Ritcheson, after having lost his life in July of 2007. We look forward to the debate of this resolution on the floor of the House, and we pay tribute to David Ray Ritcheson for his courage and for the tragedy that took his life.

CONGRATULATING U.S. CONSULATE IN BERMUDA

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Consulate General of the United States in Bermuda on their events to celebrate the 231st anniversary of American independence, of which G.K. BUTTERFIELD and myself acted as cosponsors.

The American Society of Bermuda and the United States Consulate skillfully joined together in such an exemplary manner that it deserves to be noted here in Congress. These events are powerful examples of how we can partner with our host countries around the world to the benefit of America's sound principles and democratic values.

At a time when we need the strongest promotion of what is truly the American way, the staff of the United States Consulate General in Bermuda provided the activities and the outreach that immediately impacted on all those present and portrayed the richness of our American philanthropy and caring.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE COLONIZATION OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I asked a question tonight, whether or not the United States of America is becoming a colony. A colony is made up of people from one country owing allegiance to their home country, not the country that they're in. And a colony serves the purpose of supporting the home country and exploits the new land. And has this happened to the United States? Have people illegally entered the United States with the purpose of colonizing this country for the benefit of another nation?

I think the question is a valid question when it comes to Mexico. We know that the previous President of Mexico, Vicente Fox, actually encouraged illegal entry of his citizens into the United States. His government provided maps and documents so that people could enter illegally into this land.

At the border of Texas and Mexico on the Mexican side, you can find numerous markets where an individual can buy documents of identification that are sold so that people can use them when they come into the United States to pretend to be here legally.

And when we talk about the issue of immigration and what to do with the people here in this country that are illegally here, we must ask the question, why did they choose to be here illegally as opposed to coming the legal way? The reason may be that many of the illegals don't want to become Americans. Of course this country has a great number of individuals who are legally here that want to be loyal to this country and do the proper thing according to this Nation, but there are many that are here illegally and they're here illegally on purpose. They pledge allegiance to another flag, many to the Mexican flag, not to the American flag. And that is the current problem with many illegals in this Nation; they want to be colonists, not citizens.

Part of being an American means that individuals pledge loyalty, wherever they come from, to this Nation, not some other nation. Many of them living in America want to accept the benefits of being in this country, but they don't want to accept the conditions of being an American. They want to remain colonists, not Americans. They refuse to learn the language, they refuse to assimilate, and most importantly, they refuse to be loyal to this Nation.

And the effects of the colonization of our land means that the money that these illegals make does not stay in this Nation. Like colonies in the past, the money is returned to their home country. Many statistics report that over \$22 billion a year is sent back to Mexico in the form of money sent from this Nation, from Mexican citizens in this Nation returning their money to their home country. They are feeding the Mexican economy at the expense of the American economy.

Since many of them deal in a cash economy, they don't pay taxes the way legals do and American citizens. In fact, there is an organized system in this Nation where money is shipped back to Mexico through a complicit alliance of the banking industry in this country. And many of them do not contribute to the social programs provided for Americans and legal immigrants. They don't pay into the health care system, the education, and many of them don't pay into Social Security, but they receive those benefits at a drain to the American economy. It sounds like colonization of this Nation; they reap the benefits without the re-

sponsibility of being American. And the American taxpayer is stuck with the bill.

We have heard that illegals do contribute to the economy, that they pay their taxes, and we've heard the other extreme that they don't pay anything. If we're to believe the Heritage Foundation, they say that for every dollar that an illegal pays into the American tax system, they get in return from benefits \$3. So yet that extra \$2 the American taxpayer is caught with.

And of course this has happened before in history. If we use the example of the African continent, the African nations were raided by the Europeans in the last several centuries. They became colonies of Europe. Those colonies ended up, the minerals, the diamonds, the ivory and the gold were all taken from those nations and returned to the mother countries; sent it back to Europe so their country, the mother country, could benefit and the colonies were bankrupt. The results are known; they left many of those African nations in ruins, and many of these nations are still struggling to recover because of the colonization of their nation.

So, the United States, Mr. Speaker, should not be a colony of Mexico. Imperialism of Mexico is not welcomed in this Nation. And this country needs to get back to some basics of securing both of our borders, the northern and southern border. We should not grant amnesty to people who don't want to be Americans, and I'm referring to those illegals that are in the United States. We should strengthen requirements to enter this country. And we should end the good deal for illegals and the bad deal for American citizens and American legal immigrants. I suggest that the colonization by third world countries of the United States must end.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 2100

WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to come to the floor this evening to talk about the war in Iraq one more time. I know that this is the focus of this Congress, whether we want it to be or not. No matter what we do or what we try to do, we are met head-on with the fact of the matter that Iraq stands before us as an issue, as something that must be solved.

The fact of the matter is we have now over 3,600 soldiers who have been killed in Iraq. Over 27,000 soldiers have been seriously injured; wounded. I am talking about the kinds of injuries such as brain injuries, loss of limbs, eyes gouged out, the kind of injuries that certainly will interfere with these soldiers' ability to have a good quality of life, to be able to be employed, to